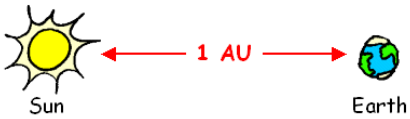
Astronomical Distance



- Kilometer (km): a standard unit of distance on Earth
- Astronomical Unit (AU): a standard unit of distance within the Solar System
  - 1 AU = 150,000,000 km (avg distance Earth to Sun)
- Parsec (pc): a standard unit of distance beyond the Solar System
  - 1 pc = 3.09×10^{13} km = 2.06×10^{5} AU = 3.26 ly
- Light-year (ly): a unit of distance beyond the Solar System, used in popular science
  - 1 ly = 9.46×10^{12} km = 6.32×10^{4} AU = 0.31 pc

Common Misconception!

- Parsecs and light-years are units of DISTANCE, like kilometers
- They are NOT units of TIME, like hours or days